



STATE OFFICE  
2215 Devine Street  
Columbia, S.C. 29205  
(803) 788-2480

#### RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

Alston Wilkes Home  
Columbia Central  
1218 Bull Street  
Columbia, S.C. 29201  
(803) 788-1384

Alston Wilkes Home  
Columbia South  
1101 Olympia Avenue  
Columbia, S.C. 29201

Alston Wilkes Home  
Greenville South  
906 Augusta Street  
Greenville, S.C. 29605  
(803) 235-7447

Alston Wilkes Home  
Greenville North  
614 Pendleton Street  
Greenville, S.C. 29601  
(803) 242-0808

Alston Wilkes Home  
Florence  
1008 Waverly Street  
Florence, S.C. 29501  
(803) 662-0900

Alston Wilkes Youth Home  
Columbia South  
1103 Olympia Avenue  
Columbia, S.C. 29201  
(803) 788-2406

Alston Wilkes Youth Home  
Columbia North  
701 Piegah Church Road  
Columbia, S.C. 29203  
(803) 788-1323

July 31, 1990

Fran Wheeler, Ph.D.  
Director  
Center for Health Promotion  
S.C. D.H.E.C.  
2600 Bull St.  
Columbia, S.C. 29201

Linda Allen  
Director of Residential Programs  
1218 Bull Street  
Columbia, S.C. 29201

RE: Letter of Support

Dear Ms. Wheeler:

I'm sorry for the delay in getting this letter to you but my own personal health problem stemming from smoking, which I quit in 1978, has added to the delayed response.

We indeed need to reduce tobacco use in South Carolina. The cost to the state and its citizens in illness, lost work, insurance costs, and medical care that could have been avoided is beyond most individuals comprehension.

I am willing to personally support the coalition project to reduce smoking in South Carolina and the nation. In whatever way I can, I will encourage Alston Wilkes Society to cooperate with and assist the project among our own staff and the many clients we serve.

Currently I am in the final stages of evaluation for a double lung and heart transplant due to my smoking history. While health may limit what I can actively do for the project, I am certainly willing to allow publicity of my own case if it will aid in public awareness. I will continue to speak out to my family, friends, staff, and other contacts about the price I have paid for smoking and my attitudes both before and during my current illness. I have found people are often without words when confronted with a living case of the life threatening nature of tobacco use.

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It is encouraging to find agencies such as the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control willing to take an active role in administering a contract in support of the current coalition. Their cooperation with the American Cancer Society, with its proven track record, should provide a dynamic for positive impact on the smoking population of our state.

While I would not wish my personal physical condition on any person, I do wish that more people could grasp the serious danger into which they are placing their bodies and the bodies of those youngsters who will imitate them. I know people have even watched loved ones die of smoking related disease and still not stopped. If, however, we could keep those negative experiences in focus whenever smoking is portrayed and eliminate the glamorous and tough images that advertising and society still often attach to smoking perhaps in time smoking could become eliminated through every individual choosing to not smoke.

Sincerely,



Linda Allen  
Director of Residential Programs

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